



Florida House of Representatives

Democratic Office

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HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MESSAGE POINTS

In the midst of economic crisis, Republican legislators have made short-sighted budget cuts to education, health care and tourism-promotion programs.

Florida House Democrats responded to the budget imbalance by presenting meaningful solutions that are sensitive to Florida's middle-class taxpayers, small businesses and vulnerable Floridians.

Republicans could have averted the pain for many Florida families by closing corporate tax loopholes, eliminating sales tax exemptions for special interests, and stopping tax cheats from abusing laws pertaining to real estate transfers.

Republicans are cutting \$732 million from education, including the college and university systems.

K-12 funding is being slashed by \$466 million. The per-pupil loss of funding equates to \$140 per student. This is only the latest onslaught to public schools. Since July 2007, education funding has been cut \$820 million, or a reduction of \$266 per student.

This Legislature has failed to spend time rooting out waste.

Raiding the Lawton Chiles Endowment by \$700 million is a penny-wise, pound-foolish proposal that will jeopardize the future of our children's health care.

